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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

OUR TICKET THIS YEAR

For President
ALLAN L. BENSON
For Vice-President
GEORGE R. KIRKPATRICK

VOL. III. No. 12.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1916

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60c per year; \$1 per year outside United States; 25c for 48 weeks in Clubs of 4 or more except in Chicago

We are moving forward! Our strength is beginning to show itself in this campaign. We need no greater evidence of this than that the big capitalist news agencies have promised to give the Socialist Party a "fair and square" deal this year. They have been forced to come across. The usual straw votes being taken and the canvasses being made by the capitalist press indicate that the socialist vote will be more than double that of four years ago. We are moving forward against the capitalist trenches. Comrades! Are you in the fighting army of labor this year, or are you a shirker or a deserter? Answer by your actions!

Stinging Speech By Benson At Des Moines, Ia., Forces Big News Trust To Action

Here's the report of the speech by Allan L. Benson, our presidential candidate, as it appeared in The Des Moines Register. It was this speech that forced the Associated Press, the big news trust, referred to by Benson as the "painted lady", to promise to send 350 words over its wires each night on the progress of the Socialist presidential tour. Benson promises to hammer away at the capitalist press and capitalist news associations. But you can help him by getting after your local paper. Find out why it doesn't publish news of the great Socialist campaign this year.

(From The Des Moines, Ia., Register)

SOCIALIST LEADER BITTERLY ASSAILS BOTH OLD PARTIES

Presidential Candidate Makes
Stirring Appeal to Large
Audience at Auditorium.

SWATS THE DAILY PRESS

Challenges The Register, De-
claring It Dare Not Print
His Utterances.

RIPS UP MILITARY PLANS

Unsparring in Criticism of Wil-

son and Hughes and Other

Old Party Leaders.

By REESE STUART, JR.

Allan L. Benson of Yonkers, N. Y., socialist candidate for president of the United States, in address at the Auditorium last night an audience composed of members of his party and a number of other parties threw out a challenge to The Register to print what he said of the republican party and others, a challenge which he reiterated at frequent intervals throughout his address.

Mr. Benson declared that he had charges to present against both the democratic and republican candidates for the office to which he himself aspires which, if known to the American people, would prevent the re-election of President Wilson or the election of Charles E. Hughes.

A Conspiracy of Silence.

He declared also that there was a conspiracy of silence on the part of The Associated Press, to which he referred as a "painted lady," and the newspapers to prevent the people's knowing what these charges are, that he is speaking practically every day until the election, but that The Associated Press carries no account of his speeches while it is sending thru the country 500 words a day on the speeches of Hanly, prohibition candidate for president, and that his own party has not only cast a much larger vote than the prohibition party in the last two elections but increased over 100 per cent in 1912 while the prohibition vote was smaller than in 1908. He predicted that he would poll over 2,000,000 votes this year as against something over 900,000 in 1912.

Hanly's Mission and Benson's.

"And Mr. Hanly's purpose is to prevent your bodies being filled with whisky, while my purpose is to prevent your bodies being filled with lead," he declared, before launching upon the most scorching denunciation of the military and naval appropriations of the recent congress that Des Moines has ever heard.

"I never expect fair treatment," he said. "There is a reporter for a Des Moines paper sitting in the wings of this stage now. If that paper prints what I shall say and what I know and the reporter knows to be news, it is on the square. I name that paper now. Look for The Des Moines Register in the morning."

"I charge that the democratic administration has enacted a law that permits the president to draft into the army, in time of military needs, every man in this country between the ages of 18 and 45 years who is in good health. That clause was smuggled into the Hay-Chamberlain army reorganization bill and it was done with the approval of President Wilson."

Another One For The Reporter.

Mr. Benson addressed the reporter again in giving a reference to the Congressional Record of August 25, 1916, wherein Congressman Hay is quoted as declaring that it made no difference "to the president" whether the word used was "call" or "draft". Mr. Hay's defense was in reply to objections offered by another congressman who objected to the change after having voted for the bill as it passed, and without having been aware of the change.

THEY SURRENDER!

By J. L. ENGDAHL.

THE Associated Press, the nation's biggest news distributing association, has surrendered.

The United Press, the nation's second largest news distributing association, has also capitulated.

They have both promised to handle the news of the Socialist campaign this year "fairly and squarely" from now on. We put no faith in promises. So we expect the comrades thruout the nation to be on the job to see that they make good.

NOTHING UNUSUAL.

IT WAS evident from the start of this year's presidential struggle that the capitalist news associations, and the capitalist press generally, intended ignoring all the news of the Socialist campaign.

This was not unusual. It has happened in every campaign. It happens every day. The capitalist press, inspired and controlled by the big business interests of the country, either suppress entirely or twist to suit themselves, the news of working class activity, especially the news of working class progress.

CAMPAIGN BIGGER THAN EVER.

THIS YEAR the Socialist campaign is bigger, more effective, more powerful than ever. Two million leaflets each week, in a ten week series, are being distributed over the nation. This does not include the millions of other leaflets sent out from the national campaign headquarters, in addition to the literature being published by state, county and local campaign committees.

Allan L. Benson, our presidential candidate, and George R. Kirkpatrick, our vice presidential candidate, are speaking to larger and more enthusiastic audiences than ever before. Daily the campaign swells to new gigantic proportions.

SILENCE EVERYWHERE.

YET everywhere in the ranks of the capitalist press, with only a few exceptions, all was silence. Some of the weekly and monthly magazines, like the Review of Reviews, Current Literature, and a few others took note of the fact that the Socialists had really nominated a national ticket.

EXCITED OVER LIQUOR.

In the meantime the Associated Press got excited about the prohibition candidate, Mr. Hanly, who repudiated most of his party's platform. The "A. P." sent a staff correspondent along with the prohibition candidate. Extended notices of the progress of the prohibition campaign were sent out daily to the capitalist press. And the reports were published.

Do the big interests believe that they can turn the workers aside from the real issues in this campaign and embroil them in a fake fight over the liquor question? Do the plutocrats really believe they can split the ranks of the toilers this year into contending wet and dry factions? If so, they have a rude awakening awaiting them. The working class this year is not going to get excited over the liquor question, nor will it be led astray by any free liquor provided by the old parties.

BENSON AROUSED.

IT WAS this very evident discrimination against the Socialist campaign that stirred the fighting blood of our presidential candidate, Allan L. Benson. Night after night, starting at Des Moines, Iowa, Benson assailed the capitalist news associations and the capitalist press, daring them to publish the truth so that the American people might learn the truth about the real issues in this campaign.

At Des Moines, Iowa, he pilloried The Des Moines Register, the largest local capitalist publication, before an audience of several thousand and enthusiastic listeners. Benson urged everyone within the reach of his voice to look for a report of the meeting in The Register next morning. The reporter went back to his office and told the editor what Benson had said, and the editor, fearing an immediate shrinkage in his subscription list ordered the reporter to write a "fair" report of the meeting. The story as it appeared in "The Register" the next morning appears on this page. This fight by Benson against the silence of the organs of the plutocracy was repeated in every city in which he appeared. When he passed thru Chicago this week and visited the national campaign headquarters on his way from St. Louis to Indianapolis, Benson was in a real fighting mood and promised to keep up a running fire on the entrenched mouthpieces of capitalism.

HIT BY TWO MILLION LEAFLETS.

THEN Benson let loose in "Leaflet No. 5", two million copies of which were published in the attack on this capitalist censorship. The contents of this leaflet were published in The

American Socialist last week. Here is the stinger that appeared in the leaflet:

"The Socialist Party, in 1912, cast more than four times as many votes as did the Prohibition Party. The Socialist Party in 1912 doubled its vote. The Prohibition Party in 1912 did not cast as many votes as it cast in 1892."

"Why this discrimination upon the part of the Associated Press? There is but one answer. The interests that control the Associated Press do not want the American people to know the truths that I, upon behalf of the Socialist Party, am trying to tell the American people."

THEY SURRENDER.

BENSON was hitting the capitalist press and its news association where he could hurt it the most. He was discrediting it in the eyes of the people who attended the meetings he addressed and who read this leaflet and The American Socialist.

Correspondents of the Associated Press began wiring their chief in New York City. He quickly realized what was taking place, and what would happen if Benson's attack was not halted.

So the Associated Press surrendered. Its chief wired the Chicago office to get in touch with the National Socialist Campaign Headquarters. This resulted in a conference between the Chicago manager of the Associated Press and the Campaign Manager and representatives of the Socialist Party.

ASSOCIATED PRESS PROMISES.

The result—the Associated Press promised to give the Socialist presidential tour the same attention given the tours of candidates of other parties. The task now is to make the Associated Press live up to its promise.

It has promised to handle 350 words every night, over its wires, on the progress of the Socialist campaign. This news report is being promptly furnished to the Associated Press. We have good reason to believe it is being sent out. If this report does not appear in your local paper it is because it is being suppressed by your local paper. Call up the editor and ask him about it. Put the same pressure to bear on your local editor that has already been brought to bear on the Associated Press.

UNITED PRESS WAKES UP, TOO.

WHEN the Associated Press got busy the United Press also fell into line immediately and promised to give the Socialist campaign the attention which it had not received. The two big news distributing agencies therefore show that they realize the growing strength of the Socialist movement. They have confessed to the fact that the Socialist Party cannot be slighted with impunity. By suppressing news of the Socialist campaign, it is admitted that these news associations, backed by the capitalist press, can materially hinder the truth from reaching the people. But once this plot is exposed, the news agencies by their surrender admit, the people will turn against them and hurt them more than any censorship can possibly hurt the Socialist Party.

So they have promised to be good—at least temporarily. They will only be good as long as the organized forces of the Socialist movement keep them under strict surveillance.

MAKE IT FIVE MILLION.

OUR big weapon in this campaign is the Benson series of 10 leaflets. No censorship can stop this message from reaching the workers of the nation. The fifth leaflet is now being distributed over the nation—two million copies of it. The sixth leaflet will go to the printers when this issue of The American Socialist goes to press. We want to jump the circulation of this leaflet and the remaining four leaflets to at least five million copies. That would force every capitalist sheet in the nation to publish columns of news matter about our campaign.

We can do it! We must do it! These leaflets sell for 50 cents per thousand. This covers the bare cost of production. The loss is met with an appropriation out of the campaign fund. Your contribution to the campaign fund will make it possible to carry on the leaflet campaign, as well as all the other features of our great struggle this fall without sacrificing any of them. Make yourself heard at the National Campaign Headquarters, Socialist Party, 803 West Madison Street, Chicago.

Candidates' Dates Next Week

The speaking dates of our national candidates next week are as follows:

BENSON DATES.
Oct. 1, Detroit, Mich.; 2, Cincinnati, Ohio; 3, En route; 4, Denver, Colo.; 5, En route; 6, En route.

KIRKPATRICK DATES.
Oct. 1, Elizabeth, N. J.; 2, 3:30 P. M.; 1, Brooklyn, N. Y.; 8:00 P. M.; 23rd Assembly Dist.; 2, Lynn, Mass.; 3, Jamestown, N. Y.; 4, South Bend, Ind.; 5, Davenport, Iowa; 6, Omaha, Neb.

If you are within reaching distance of any of these meetings attend them and help make them a rousing success.

Swat the war agitator with a Socialist ballot.

Kirk's question has been answered. War is for boodles.

The workers make everything, but the capitalists take it.

Capitalism feeds the man who is hungry, on taffy.

The capitalist campaign needs a disinfectant.

If the worker breaks a tool he may lose his job. But if he breaks his neck the employer loses nothing.

The corporations not only own the tools of production but also the political tools.

Every time you vote an old party ticket you vote merely on who shall superintend your own spoilation.

A movement that doesn't move gets nowhere. A man who does nothing for the race does nothing for himself.

How can Socialism take anything from you, when you haven't got it? Capitalism has been there first.

The old partyite has learned better than to argue socialism. He merely tries to look superior, like a monkey.

The landlord is as surely a lord as the his title was conferred by a king—and it was.

There is a difference between law and justice. The workers have enough law now, but no justice.

If labor creates capital, why does not labor own it and use it for its benefit?

The Republican party seems to have forgotten the "dignity which forbade McKinley touring the country in a vulgar search for votes".

Capitalism pensions workers for killing other workers. Socialism will pension workers for making it possible for all workers to live.

The Hons. have at last gone home, and will be kept busy boasting of how they passed the eight hour law and explaining why they did it.

If Mr. Roosevelt is uncorked it looks like Hughes stands a poorer chance of victory than the Maine vote indicates.

Since labor and capital have been "harmonized" it does look like they might quit striking until after election.

The strike may boost wages, but it can't prevent there being a raise in the cost of living that absorbs the wages paid.

By the time the old party voters can decide on just what is a fair profit his pockets will be empty and he will pass to a pauper's grave.

This country is inhabited by two families, Too Much and Too Little. Guess which one is the more numerous.

The principle of arbitration is a sacred thing, because it compels the slave to remain a slave because a few arbitrators says he shall.

The reformer is great on swatting effects. But the cause behind the effects always comes up smiling after every apparent knock out blow.

If the capitalists have reduced the cost of production thru using big machinery, why is it that they have raised the price of the products?

If the government can make its bonds good by law, without a reserve behind them, why can't it make its money good in the same way?

Hughes and Wilson are both satisfactory to the plutocrats. The rest will simply be "bull" for the purpose of jollying the sillies.

It is Benson who gets the crowds. Wouldn't Hughes or Wilson be glad to address a million and a half every week till election, like Benson does?

Wilson kept us out of war—by invading Mexico twice and spending more for preparedness in one year than any nation on the face of the earth ever did before.

In the olden days the king's son succeeded him but we rebelled against that. In this day the capitalist's son inherits his power and we say that is right.

Won't Oklahoma and Nevada look nice when they appear garbed all in red the day after the election? And won't Debs in congress give them a hearty welcome?

Strange that the first United States senator to be elected by the Socialists should bear the name Grant. You can't hold a man to the past by naming him for a hero that is dead.

Where is the progressive now that he thinks he has your attention? Try to fool you into one of the old parties and political suicide of course. That was all he was for in the first place.

Counting on the birth of a new crop of suckers the torchlight procession paid for by those who expect to profit from the election has been revised. All the worker is expected to do is to carry the torch by night and carry to the burdens the rest of the time.

Old Party Canvass Finds Unrest In Labor's Ranks

An unprecedented increase in the vote of the Socialist Party this fall is indicated by the results of a nationwide canvass now being carried on jointly by a large number of capitalist newspapers.

First returns have just been published by the Peoria, Ill., Journal Transcript and give the results on the canvass carried on in the vicinity of Rock Island, Ill.

The report set in to his paper by Howard M. Fuller under the Rock Island date line is as follows:

"Journal-Transcript canvassers in the presidential poll being conducted by this paper in connection with a number of other metropolitan journals have discovered unmistakable signs of much unrest among the working men. No attempt will be made to theorize on why this condition, but it is apparent to each and every one of the canvassers."

"During the past week we have visited several factories and shops in Davenport, Rock Island and Moline and other cities in this section of the two states, and this restless condition is reflected in the statements of the workmen made to the canvassers. Very few employers of labor will permit a poll to be taken thru their shops, and that it is usually secured just outside the gates at noon when the employees leave for their lunch and on their return."

"The reason generally assigned for a refusal to permit the poll takers in the shops is that the employers do not wish to permit anything that will agitate the workmen and add the information that anything of a political nature always does."

"Another patent fact brought out by the canvass is the increase in socialism. This is particularly true at the great shops of the Rock Island railroad located at Sylvan."

Hughes Unpopular.

"It is few votes that Mr. Hughes, the republican nominee for president, is going to get out of these shops. The secret ballot resulted in a total of 183 votes being polled. Of these 64 will be cast for the re-election of President Wilson, and but 22 for Mr. Hughes. Mr. Benson, the socialist nominee, will receive 97, or more than double the vote of 41 which Mr. Debs received four years ago from these same men."

Others voted 73 for Mr. Wilson, 11 for Mr. Taft and 15 for Mr. Roosevelt four years ago.

"This is a socialist gain of 56. Six who voted four years ago for Mr. Roosevelt will vote for Benson, three who voted for Taft have swung over and 36 who voted for Mr. Wilson will vote for Mr. Benson. Four Roosevelt men will go to Mr. Wilson and five to Mr. Hughes. Three Taft men will vote for Mr. Wilson, five for Mr. Hughes and three for Mr. Benson."

"Rock Island, too, a republican city, is not going very strong for Mr. Hughes. Of a total of 290 among the business houses 133 will vote for Mr. Wilson, 146 for Mr. Hughes and 11 for Mr. Benson. This is an increase of four in the socialist vote."

Wilson Gets Shop.

"Mr. Wilson will carry the Rock Island poll shops. Of a total of 87 ballots polled here 42 are for the president and 22 for Mr. Hughes. Three were cast for Mr. Benson, an increase of three over the vote of Mr. Debs of four years ago."

"The Scandinavians of Moline are going for Mr. Benson just as strong as their neighbors in Galva and Cambridge. Of a total of 319 votes 83 are for Mr. Wilson, 208 for Mr. Hughes and 28 for Mr. Benson. This is a socialist gain of 14 over the vote for Mr. Debs of four years ago."

"Saturday two Journal-Transcript canvassers were in Galesburg polling the Burlington shops and railroad men. Other canvassers were working in Monmouth, Albia, Alexis, and others were headed for Wisconsin by way of Sterling, Dixon, Freeport, Rockford and to Beloit. Next week the Journal will begin printing reports from Wisconsin and Michigan in addition to Illinois and Iowa, and on Sunday, Sept. 24, will publish its first general tabulation of the work of canvassers in all sections of the nation."

No wonder the headline writer got excited and wrote as follows: "UNREST IN LABOR SEEN IN CRISIS—SEEM TO FAVOR BENSON."

CAPITALISM DESTROYS HOME!

"According to the census figures of 1910 the total male population of the country, twenty years old and over, was about 28,000,000. Out of these 8,102,062 were single, 1,470,280 widowed, and 155,815 divorced. Out of the 25,500,000 women over twenty years old, 4,947,406 were single, 3,165,967 were widowed, and 181,418 divorced."

"Thus, out of a total of 53,500,000 adult Americans 18,000,000 or more than a third, were unmarried. This, observes Commissioner Rittenhouse, who was charged with investigating the alarming facts, 'is an unfortunate and startling state of affairs. Moreover, from the ranks of the unmarried comes humanity's heaviest contribution to immorality and crime.' Yes, especially when aided by the economic misery of millions of women."

Morris Hillquit in Debate with Ryan—"Socialism: Promise or Menace."

The common people have produced the greatest tragedy of the ages—the infinitely sorrowful tragedy of ignorance.

By **ALLAN L. BENSON**, SOCIALIST CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

1 Liberty Co. Sta D Box 4 B. Cleveland, O

and Socialismus??
(and Socialism.)

The second edition has just been published well and with a Christian spirit. It shows how to make Christianity in reality practicable, by the monsters of the age. Prof. Rauschenbusch says "the last should read it". This revised edition, valuable for propaganda, should get this revision valuable material and the latest statistics have

hundred.

3, HILLSBORO, KANS.

MAKE EVERY SOCIALIST VOTER AN AMERICAN SOCIALIST READER

GOING UP!
Another jump in the subscription list of The American Socialist puts the number of our subscribers this week at

56,711

An extraordinary effort this week will push it right over the 60,000 mark. We can do it easily.

Big forces are now at work pushing up the subscription list. Many of the Benson and Kirkpatrick speaking dates have been taken on a subscription basis. Every man and woman hearing Benson or Kirkpatrick continues receiving his education in Socialism for six months after the meeting from The American Socialist.

Then the comrades are sending in 15 week and 10 week subs. They intend that The American Socialist shall be read after election as well as before election.

Big lists of names are now coming in every day on our final campaign offer—The American Socialist for five weeks for five cents. All of these five week subs will be started with the issue of Saturday, Oct. 7. This will be the first of five issues, the last one dated Saturday, Nov. 4, the Saturday before election day.

You have only a few days left to get these five week subs to the office of The American Socialist, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

ROLL OF HONOR

Walter M. Cook, Georgia state organizer, sends in 14 five week subs taken at a street meeting at Columbus, Ga. He writes: "The sentiment for Socialism in Georgia is good. The membership is growing. The American Socialist is out there whether we like it or not. I believe this list will come out as members."

Comrade R. L. Goodwin sends in the names of 20 Dubs at Port Pierce, Mo. He writes: "I'm something doing for Socialism in Alderson."

One of our big lists of five week subs comes from Comrade L. B. Avery, of Alderson, Pa. He sends \$15 to pay for 300 names. There'll be something doing for Socialism in Alderson."

Three good looking lists come from Minnesota. One is from Comrade O. M. Aarseth, of Echo, containing 40 names, the second from Comrade Fred Dahlberg, of Sandstone, containing 40 names, and the third from Comrade E. M. Malzahn, of Bemidji, also containing 40 names.

"I am glad to see that our paper has a cartoon in each issue," writes Comrade F. W. Harris, of Richmond, Va. "Pictures talk to everybody and a good, hard hitting cartoon goes a long way."

"This is what the comrades of Local Camden have done for the good of the campaign," writes Comrade Lewis S. Alley, of Camden, Maine, as he sends in 81 ten week subs, two forty week subs and one yearly subscription to The American Socialist.

Comrade V. M. Reynolds, chairman of the Alabama state committee, sends in 100 ten week subs from Alabama.

Fifty of those ten week subs come from Comrade J. W. Adams, of Waverly, New York.

One of our biggest lists comes from Collinsville, Ill. It is for 205 ten week subs.

AMERICA FIRST.

Government statistics show that the trusts and corporations are first and that the people are last.

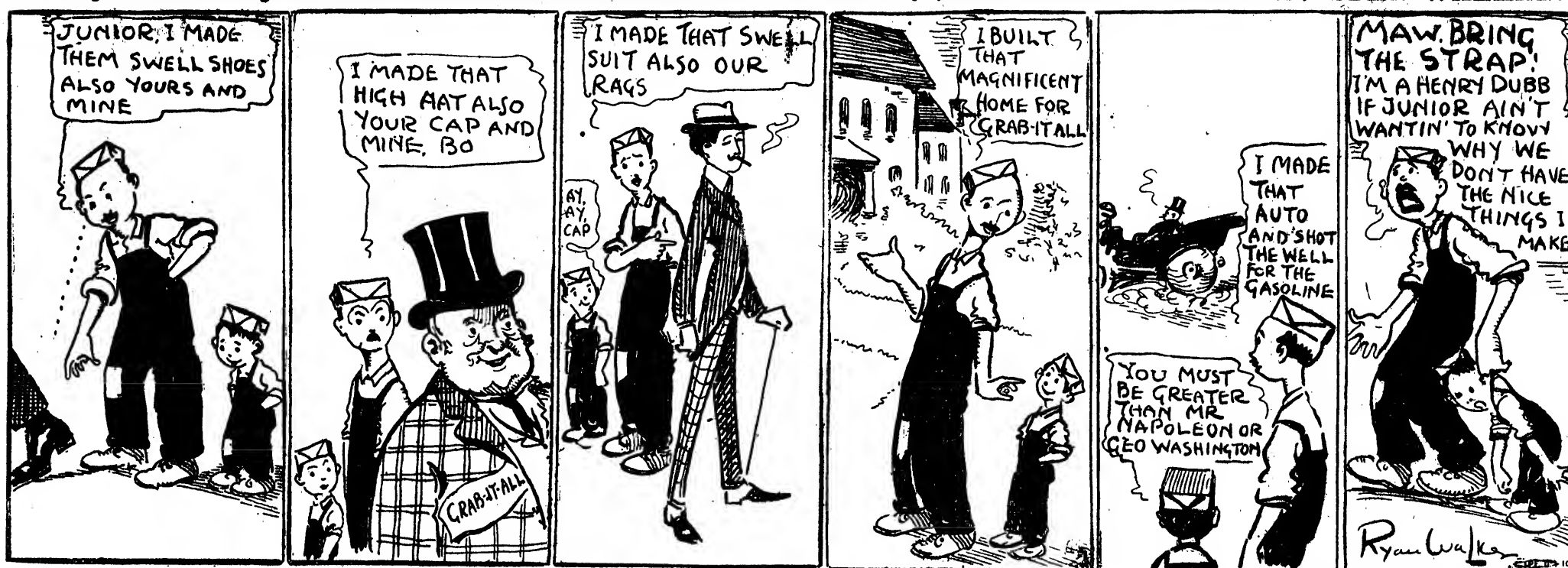
That 90 per cent of men are flat broke at 60 years of age, living day by day, or supported by their children.

That 95 per cent of business men do not make a success in life.

Forty-five capitalists receive over

Henry Dubb's Object Lesson Was O. K. Until Junior Asked A Question

By RYAN WALKER.



SHERBET SCOFFMAN'S PAGE

WEALTH WITHIN YOUR REACH—GRASP IT!

By WILLIS ANDREWS.

Aeons were consumed in building the pyramids. Hundreds of years were required to teach Solomon wisdom.

All that is changed now. Skyscrapers are reared in a day and toddling infants now tutor aged parents.

Stock jobbing and robbing create fortunes in the twinkling of an eye. Doors and hewers are beck numbers. Get wealth by stealth. Cinch the goods now—never mind how.

Workers dawdle their time away making, instead of taking. Only the clod continues to plod.

Socialists give promise to the man who works, instead of rewarding the man who shirks.

But that would rob pates of perpetual rest, and take from their lives all color and zest.

None but the bold ever get the gold. The meek but seldom seek. Waiting for the morrow will only bring you sorrow.

Corner the soil, and coase-your toil. Croesus looked like a man in the bread line compared with Astor, who bought Manhattan for a muskrat skin. There are plenty more muskrats in the swamps of Jersey; catch 'em, and buy sites of future great cities.

If this you simply will not do, the future you shall surely rue.

By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them

By JOHN M. WORK.

THEY say that we Socialists intrude our views upon other people. Well, maybe we do sometimes. But we just can't help it. We know we are right, and we know the other fellow is asleep, so we feel it to be our duty to wake him up and put him on the right track.

When the stolid lover, Christian, in Cyrene de Bergerac, proposed to Roxanna, he merely blurted out, "I love you."

The girl waited patiently for the rest, but when it did not come she tapped her dainty foot impatiently and said, "Yes, that's the theme, but—embroider it!"

A passionate lover does not need to be told to embroider it. He can't help doing so. It is only the cold half-hearted lover who has to be told.

The Socialist is passionately in love with Socialism. He cannot help trying to spread the truth. He is so full of it that if it did not find some outlet he would surely explode.

When you find a Socialist who never says anything about Socialism, takes little interest in the movement, seldom attends a meeting, and rarely takes a hand in the propaganda work, you can be sure that he is not much of a Socialist.

He is like the stolid half-hearted lover in the play.

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IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.

By Max S. Hayes.

IT IS all guess work in trying to reach a safe conclusion respecting the granting of an eight-hour day to the railway employees.

It is true Congress enacted a law granting eight hours to railway workers, but the legal department of the various railroads are already engaged in mapping out plans to test the constitutionality of the new law and it may take a long time before the issue is finally settled.

It is not only improbable that the corporations will institute eight-hour shifts on Dec. 1, but it is unlikely that they will even grant 10 hours' pay for eight hours' work on that date, as provided in the Adamson law.

We hold to our original view that when the railway employees withdrew the penalty clause for overtime work, at the behest of President Wilson and influential members of Congress, the brotherhood officials struck a vital blow at their own cause.

Experience proves that an eight-hour day becomes farcical where an excess of 50 per cent is not exacted for time worked over eight hours.

Such has been the result in manufacturing plants and the violation of the eight-hour principle will be still more glaring in railroading.

It looks as tho the railwaymen have been whipsawed again by legal sharps and politicians who try to carry water on both shoulders.

We hope we are wrong, but facts are pretty stubborn things.

THE BRITISH Trade Union Congress just held was the most important labor gathering that ever assembled in the history of the nation.

The convention re-affirmed the principle of the eight-hour day in all trades, with a minimum adult wage of \$7.50 a week, recognition of the

every library should contain

SUGGESTIONS for a

PERMANENT PEACE

By a Swiss officer. Perfectly neutral.

PART ONE:

Why have we the European war?

Why did the Teutons march to Belgium?

Why did England join the contest?

Who was the winner at the end of 1915?

PART TWO:

How can war be waged more effectively, without the use of arms?

How can Militarism and Navalism be suppressed?

How can the map of Europe be readjusted?

How can the gigantic war loans and a war indemnity be met without drawing on any man's purse?

Friends of Peace, Arouse! Give your help!

Address the author.

HANS OBERHANSLI

3458 Elaine Place, Chicago.

VOTE FOR SOCIALISM.

union by the employers, and payment of unemployed men and women by the State. The congress instructed its parliamentary committee to prepare a manifesto showing that reconstruction after the war depends on education, abolition of sweatshop conditions, demolition of unsanitary areas, and abolition of all monopolies. The congress adopted a resolution in favor of a Minister of Labor with power to control and organize the health of workers, housing, agriculture and food supplies, along with national control of land, State ownership of railways, waterways, mines and war plants. The congress also adopted resolutions demanding adequate old age pensions and exemption of such benefits from taxation, and repudiated the charge of David Lloyd George that organized labor had not done its duty to the country during the war. It was pointed out that 90 per cent of the soldiers in the trenches were workmen. The congress rejected the idea of a trade war against the central powers after the present war. The speakers declared that organized labor of Great Britain had not gone into the war to punish the German nation, but to abolish all wars in the future. The delegates went on record against industrial conscription which would send soldiers into factories and shops on different terms than civilian workers. One of the most startling announcements of the congress was a resolution declaring in favor of a protective tariff.

THERE were over 200,000 working people on strike in the United States during August, according to the Department of Labor at Washington. There were about 50 strikes in New York State, the same number in Pennsylvania, 36 in Massachusetts, 34 in Ohio, 24 in New Jersey and proportionate numbers in other industrial States.

In Switzerland the Socialists are inaugurating a national referendum that will soon come to a vote to compel the military authorities to cease meddling with civic affairs. For some time the army officers have been usurping power to administer what they call justice over the protest of citizens and elected officials, thus proving that the supposed "democratic military system" of Switzerland is not much, if any, better than the militarism of other countries. In their very nature democracy and militarism can't mix, no matter how much theorizing may be done by those who attempt to ride steeds going in opposite directions. The Swiss system is fundamentally nothing else but a compromise, and about all the real protection labor got from it could be balanced on the point of a needle.

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Up to date, live stuff that will make the readers think. Printed especially for this campaign and sure to make votes this fall and socialists for future campaigns.

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HERE IS THIS YEAR'S SOCIALIST PARTY PLATFORM

After the most intense discussion ever conducted by the membership of the Socialist Party, the 1916 platform has been adopted by party referendum and is published for the first time on this page. It is felt that this is the most historic document ever issued by a working class organization in this country. It gives in no mistaken terms the position of the enlightened workers of the country on the big problems now confronting the nation. Five hundred thousand copies of this platform are being printed by the National Socialist Party in leaflet form. These four page leaflets may be secured at 20 cents per hundred; \$1.50 per thousand. Order from: National Office, Socialist Party, 803 West Madison St., Chicago.

IN THE midst of the greatest crisis and bloodiest struggle of all history the Socialist Party of America reaffirms its steadfast adherence to the principles of international brotherhood, world peace and industrial democracy.

The great war which has engulfed so much of civilization and destroyed millions of lives is one of the natural results of the capitalist system of production.

The Socialist Party, as the political expression of the economic interests of the working class, calls upon them to take a determined stand on the question of militarism and war, and to recognize the opportunity which the Great War has given them of forcing disarmament and furthering the cause of industrial freedom.

An armed force in the hands of the ruling class serves two purposes: to protect and further the policy of imperialism abroad and to silence by force the protest of the workers against industrial despotism at home. Imperialism and militarism plunged Europe into this world-war. America's geographical and industrial situation has kept her out of the cataclysm. But Europe's extremity has been the opportunity of America's ruling class to amass enormous profits. As a result, there is a surfeit of capital which demands the policy of imperialism to protect and further investments abroad. Hence the frenzy of militarism into which the ruling class has made every attempt to force the United States.

The workers in Europe were helpless to avert the war because they were already saddled with the burden of militarism. The workers in the United States are yet free from this burden and have the opportunity of establishing a working class policy and program against war. They can compel the government of the United States to lead the way in an international movement for disarmament and to abandon the policy of imperialism which is forcing the conquest of Mexico and must, if carried out, eventually plunge the United States into a world-war.

The working class must recognize the cry of preparedness against foreign invasion as a mere cloak for the sinister purpose of imperialism abroad and industrial tyranny at home. The class struggle, like capitalism, is international. The proletariat of the world has but one enemy, the capitalist class, whether at home or abroad. We must refuse to put into the hands of this enemy an armed force even under the guise of a "democratic army," as the workers of Australia and Switzerland have done.

Therefore the Socialist Party stands opposed to military preparedness, to any appropriations of men or money for war or militarism, while control of such forces thru the political state rests in the hands of the capitalist class. The Socialist Party stands committed to the class war, and urges upon the workers in the mines and forests, on the railways and ships, in factories and fields, the use of their economic and industrial power, by refusing to mine the coal, to transport soldiers, to furnish food or other supplies for military purposes, and thus keep out of the hands of the ruling class the control of armed forces and economic power, necessary for aggression abroad and industrial despotism at home.

The working class must recognize militarism as the greatest menace to all efforts toward industrial freedom, and regardless of political or industrial affiliations must present a united front in the fight against preparedness and militarism.

Hiduous as they are, the horrors of the

far-stretched battlefield of the old world are dwarfed by the evil results of the capitalist system, even in normal times. Instead of being organized to provide all members of society with an abundance of food, clothing and shelter, and the highest attainable freedom and culture, industry is at present organized and conducted for the benefit of a parasitic class. All the powers of government, and all our industrial genius, are directed to the end of securing to the relatively small class of capitalist investors the largest amount of profits which can be wrung from the labor of the ever-increasing class whose only property is muscle and brain, manual and mental labor power.

The dire consequences of this system are everywhere apparent. The workers are oppressed and deprived of much that makes for physical, mental and moral well being. Year by year poverty and industrial accidents destroy more lives than all the armies and navies in the world.

To preserve their privilege and power is the most vital interest of the possessing class, while it is the most vital interest of the working class to resist oppression, improve its position, and struggle to obtain security of life and liberty. Hence there exists a conflict of interests, a social war within the nation, which can know neither truce nor compromise. So long as the few own and control the economic life of the nation the many must be enslaved, poverty must coexist with riotous luxury, and civil strife prevail.

The Socialist Party would end these conditions by reorganizing the life of the nation upon the basis of Socialism. Socialism would not abolish private property, but greatly extend it. We believe that every human being should have and own all the things which he can use to advantage, for the enrichment of his own life, without imposing disadvantage or burden upon any other human being. Socialism admits the private ownership and individual direction of all things, tools, economic processes and functions which are individualistic in character, and requires the collective ownership and democratic control and direction of those which are social or collectivistic in character.

We hold that this country cannot enjoy happiness and prosperity at home and maintain lasting peace with other nations, so long as its industrial wealth is monopolized by a capitalist oligarchy. In this, as in every other campaign, all special issues arising from temporary situations, whether domestic or foreign, must be subordinated to the major issue—the need of such a reorganization of our economic life as will remove the land, the mines, forests, railroads, mills and factories, all the things required for our physical existence, from the clutches of industrial and financial freebooters and place them securely and permanently in the hands of the people.

If men were free to labor to satisfy their desires there could be in this country neither poverty nor involuntary unemployment. But the men in this country are not free to labor to satisfy their desires. The great industrial population can labor only when the capitalist class, who own the industries, believe they can market their product at a profit. The needs of millions are subordinated to the greed of a few. The situation is not unlike that of a pyramid balanced upon its apex. Oftentimes this pyramid tumbles and industrial depression comes. There was such a crash in 1907. If the capitalist owners had been willing to get out of the way, industry could have been revived in a day. But the capitalist owners are never willing to get out of the way. Their greed comes first—the people's needs, if at all, afterward. Therefore business did not quickly revive after the industrial depression of 1907. Mr. Taft was elected to bring good times, but in four years failed to bring them. Mr. Wilson was elected to bring good times, but not all of the measures he advocated had the slightest effect upon industry. The European war has brought to this country tremendous orders for military supplies and has created a period of prosperity for the few. For the masses of the people there is but an opportunity to work hard for a bare living, which is not prosperity, but slavery. As against the boast of the present national administration that its political program, now fully in force, has brought prosperity to the masses, we call attention to the statement of the Federal Public Health Service that \$800 a year is required to enable a family to avoid physical deterioration thru lack of decent living conditions, that more than half of the families of working men receive less than that amount, that nearly a third receive less than \$500 a year, and that one family in twelve receives less than \$300 a year.

The capitalist class, for a great many years, has been trying to saddle upon this country a greater army and a greater navy. A greater army is desired to keep the working class of the United States in subjection. A greater navy is desired to safeguard the foreign investments of American capitalists and to "back up" American diplomacy in its efforts to gain foreign markets for American capitalists. The war in Europe, which diminished and is still diminishing the remote possibility of European attack upon the United States, was nevertheless seized upon by capitalists and by unscrupulous politicians as a means of spreading fear thruout the country, to the end that, by false pretenses, great military establishments might be obtained. We denounce such "preparedness," as both false in principle, unnecessary in character and dangerous in its plain tendencies toward militarism. We advocate that sort of social preparedness which expresses itself in better homes, better bodies and better minds, which are alike the products of plenty and the necessity of effective defense in war.

The Socialist Party maintains its attitude of unalterable opposition to war. We reiterate the statement that the competitive nature of capitalism is the cause of modern war, and that the co-operative nature of Socialism is alone adapted to the task of ending war by removing its causes. We assert, however, that, even under the present capitalist order, additional measures can be taken to safeguard peace, and to this end, we demand:

MEASURES TO INSURE PEACE.

(1) That all laws and appropriations for the increase of the military and naval forces of the United States shall be immediately repealed.

(2) That the power be taken from the President to lead the nation into a position which leaves no escape from war. No one man, however exalted in official station, should have the power to decide the question of peace or war for a nation of a hundred millions. To give one man such power is neither democratic nor safe. Yet the President exercises such power when he determines what shall be the nation's foreign policies and what shall be the nature and tone of its diplomatic intercourse with other nations. We, therefore, demand that the power to fix foreign policies and conduct diplomatic negotiations shall be lodged in the Congress and shall be exercised publicly, the people reserving the right by referendum to order Congress, at any time, to change its foreign policy.

(3) That no war shall be declared or waged by the United States without a referendum vote of the entire people, except for the purpose of repelling invasion.

(4) That the Monroe Doctrine shall be immediately abandoned as a danger so great that even its advocates are agreed that it constitutes perhaps our greatest single danger of war. The Monroe Doctrine was originally intended to safeguard the peace of the United States. Tho the Doctrine has changed from a safeguard to a menace, the capitalist class still defends it for the reason that our great capitalists desire to retain South and Central America as their private trade preserve. We favor the cultivation of social, industrial and political friendship with all other nations in the western hemisphere, as an approach to a world confederation of nations, but we oppose the Monroe Doctrine because it takes from our hands the peace of America and places it in the custody of any nation that would attack the sovereignty of any state in the western world.

(5) That the independence of the Philippine Islands be immediately recognized as a measure of justice both to the Filipinos and to ourselves. The Filipinos are entitled to self-government; we are entitled to be freed from the necessity of building and maintaining enough dreadnoughts to defend them in the event of war.

(6) The government of the United States shall call a congress of all neutral nations to mediate between the belligerent powers in an effort to establish an immediate and lasting peace without indemnities, of forcible annexation of territory, and based on a binding and enforceable international treaty, which shall provide for concerted disarmament on land and at sea and for an international Congress with power to adjust all disputes between nations, and which shall guarantee freedom and equal rights to all oppressed nations and races.

WORKING PROGRAM.

As general measures calculated to strengthen the working class in its fight for the realization of its ultimate aim, the Co-operative Commonwealth, and to increase its power of resistance against capitalist oppression, we advocate and pledge ourselves and our elected officers to the following program:

POLITICAL DEMANDS.

1. Unrestricted and equal suffrage for men and women.

2. The immediate adoption of the so-called "Susan B. Anthony amendment" to the constitution of the United States granting the suffrage to women on equal terms with men.

3. The adoption of the initiative, referendum and recall and of proportional representation, nationally as well as locally.

4. The abolition of the Senate and of the veto power of the President.

5. The election of the President and the Vice-President by direct vote of the people.

6. The abolition of the present restriction upon the amendment of the constitution so that that instrument may be made amendable by a majority of the voters in the country.

7. The calling of a convention for the revision of the constitution of the United States.

8. The abolition of the power usurped by the Supreme Court of the United States to pass upon the constitutionality of legislation enacted by Congress. National laws to be repealed only by act of Congress or by a referendum vote of the whole people.

9. The immediate curbing of the power of the courts to issue injunctions.

10. The election of all judges of the United States for short terms.

11. The free administration of the law.

12. The granting of the right of suffrage in the District of Columbia with representation in Congress and a democratic form of municipal government for purely local affairs.

13. The extension of democratic government to all United States territory.

14. The freedom of press, speech and assembly.

15. The increase of the rates of the present income tax and corporation tax and the extension of inheritance taxes, graduated in proportion to the value of the estate and to nearness of kin—the proceeds of these taxes to be employed in the socialization of industry.

16. The enactment of further measures for general education and particularly for vocational education in useful pursuits. The Bureau of Education to be made a department.

17. The enactment of further measures for the conservation of health and the creation of an independent department of health.

18. The abolition of the monopoly ownership of patents and the substitution of collective ownership, with direct rewards to inventors by premiums or royalties.

COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP.

1. The collective ownership and democratic management of railroads, telegraphs and telephones, express service, steamboat lines

and all other social means of transportation and communication and of all large-scale industries.

2. The immediate acquirement by the municipalities, the states or the federal government, of all grain elevators, stock yards, storage warehouses and other distributing agencies, in order to relieve the farmer from the extortionate charges of the middlemen and to reduce the present high cost of living.

3. The extension of the public domain to include mines, quarries, oil wells, forests and water power.

4. The further conservation and development of natural resources for the use and benefit of all the people:

(a) By scientific forestation and timber protection.

(b) By the reclamation of arid and swamp tracts.

(c) By the storage of flood waters and the utilization of water power.

(d) By the stoppage of the present extravagant waste of the soil and the products of mines and oil wells.

(e) By the development of highway and waterway systems.

5. The collective ownership of land wherever practicable, and in cases where such ownership is impracticable, the appropriation by taxation of the annual rental value of all land held for speculation or exploitation.

6. All currency shall be issued by the Government of the United States and shall be legal tender for the payment of taxes and impost duties and for the discharge of public and private debts. The Government shall lend money on bonds to counties and municipalities at a nominal rate of interest for the purpose of taking over or establishing public utilities and for building or maintaining public roads and highways, and public schools—up to 25 per cent of the assessed valuation of such counties or municipalities. Said bonds are to be repaid in twenty equal annual installments, and the currency issued for that purpose by the Government is to be cancelled and destroyed serially as the debt is repaid. All banks and banking institutions shall be owned by the Government of the United States or by the States.

7. Government relief of the unemployed by the extension of all useful public works. All persons employed on such work to be engaged directly by the government under a work day of not more than eight hours and at not less than the prevailing union wages. The Government also to establish employment bureaus; to lend money to States and municipalities without interest for the purpose of carrying on public works, to contribute money to unemployment funds of labor unions and other organizations of workers, and to take such other measures within its power as will lessen the wide spread misery of the workers caused by the misuse of the capitalist class.

INDUSTRIAL DEMANDS.

The conservation of human resources, particularly of the lives and well-being of the workers and their families:

1. By shortening the work day in keeping with the increased productiveness of machinery.

2. By securing the freedom of political and economic organization and activities.

3. By securing to every worker a rest period of not less than a day and a half in each week.

4. By securing a more effective inspection of workshops, factories and mines.

5. By forbidding the employment of children under eighteen years of age.

6. By forbidding the interstate transportation of the products of child labor and of all uninspected factories and mines.

7. By establishing minimum wage scales.

8. By abolishing official charity and substituting a non-contributory system of old age pensions, a general system of insurance by the state of all its members against unemployment and invalidism, and a system of compulsory insurance by employers of their workers, without cost to the latter, against industrial diseases, accidents and death.

9. By establishing mothers' pensions.

PAPER TRUST EXCUSES.

From The Milwaukee Leader.

The Paper Trust is making excuses that show its evil conscience. By its own words it accuses itself. About 50 per cent of the rags and old bones used in paper manufacture used to be imported from Europe, say the trust's leaders. The British blockade has stopped these imports.

Raw sulphite pulp and other raw material heretofore imported from abroad have also been cut off by the British, claim the hired scribblers.

Unwise tariff laws have forced the American print paper industry to

seek refuge in Canada, so that the American paper industry has practically been killed.

If England and Canada now put an embargo on print paper, there will be such a shortage in the United States that most of the American newspapers and magazines will have to suspend.

Finally, so goes the trust plea, the demand for American print paper has enormously increased in Australia and in other countries. This is supposed to be the valid excuse for gouging the American paper consumers.

All this is bunk. The imports of

rags and old paper are not stopped by the British blockade to any appreciable extent. Sulphite pulp is made plentifully in the United States. The free list for print paper has not stopped the production in the United States.

The production of print paper in this country in 1914 amounted to 1,213,284 tons. This is enough for 10,500,000,000 times 14 pages of eight columns. This year's production has been vastly greater.

The paper free list did not hurt the American industry for the simple reason that it practically controlled the American market and exported huge supplies long before the war.

Since the European war broke out, the paper trust has made a fortune by exporting more print paper and then pleading that its cost of production has increased. The trust has held up the foreign buyers and is holding up the American consumer at the same time.

There is no other reason for the paper shortage in the United States and the high price of paper except the private ownership of the paper industry. If the paper industry were socialized, it would immediately become evident that this country has all the necessary resources to supply not only the home demand at all times, but to export a large surplus.

So long as America loves private ownership, it must pay for the privilege. Socialize the great industries.

HELP NATIONAL OFFICE SAVE MONEY AND AVOID MISTAKES.

In this rush period when every minute of the time of the workers in the National Office must be made to count for the most the comrades over the country can be of great assistance to us if they will observe the following suggestions:

If you have anything to say to The American Socialist about sub-cards, change of address, or any other matter pertaining to the paper, write it on a separate sheet that contains nothing else.

If you have anything to say about Benson leaflets, say it on another separate sheet that contains nothing else.

If you want Dime banks or information regarding speakers, put that on a sheet for Comrade Sherover.

If you want general information or have something to say to the Executive Department, put that on still another separate sheet.

You can put all the sheets in one envelope and they will be distributed to their proper places. But it is very difficult to divide one letter among five or six different departments without missing one or two points.

And be sure that you put your full name and address plainly on each separate letter.

READ THIS STORY.

A story is told of an old Negro who, in the year 1800, cut cordwood from the drift along the Mississippi river. He found ready sale for the wood and soon conceived the idea of getting help; so he offered to let other negroes cut and he would give them half they cut. It is said some of them worked for several days before they became conscious of the fact that the drift wood belonged to them as much as to the negro with whom they were dividing. I told this story to a half-witted boy once and he replied that some white people have not found it out yet.

If the jobs belong to all the people, as the drift wood does, those who worked would not have to divide with a private owner.

HAMLET IN HEAVEN.

A remarkable book purporting to have been written by Shakespeare to celebrate the fourth centenary of his death. Takes the characters of the play of Hamlet, and shows how they "mixed it" in the other world before they found peace and happiness. A five act play. Fred D. Warren pronounces it "One of the finest things I ever read." The pictures are striking and beautiful, the language is superb, the humor is infectious, and the philosophy very much like my own conception of the future, if there is a future, must be. Debs says of it: "I read it thru to Mrs. Debs at a sitting, and she thinks it wonderful." It doesn't matter in the least what you think of the claim of the book, as William Marion Reedy, of the St. Louis Mirror, says, "It is worth the fifty cents asked for it. It is published by The New World, Lincoln Plumber's Paper-Magazine, Girard, Kansas."

Slowly and steadily the minority or anti-war section of the French Socialist party is cutting into the strength of the majority wing. At the recent congress of the Federation of the Seine (Paris), the largest unit in the French organization, on a test resolution to continue to support the war policy of the government (with three Socialists, Guesde, Sompot and Thomas, in the cabinet), the vote was 5,276 for and 4,907 against. When it is considered that at last December's meeting the vote was 6,000 for the government policy and 3,800 opposed, and at the April session 5,500 for and 4,100 against, it can be readily seen how the wind is blowing. The debates that have occurred in these sessions have been extremely bitter at times.

The obituary of capitalism will be, R. I. P.—Requiescat in pace, Rent, Interest and Profit.

Benson-Kirkpatrick Film Gives Satisfaction.

We are receiving many letters from the Comrades that have received the Benson-Kirkpatrick Film and tried it out.

Comrade Dalton Clarke, of Washington, Pa., writes: "We received the Benson-Kirkpatrick film, and immediately placed it in a local theater, and we are more than pleased with it. Invariably when it is shown at the conclusion of a picture, it wins applause from the audience, defining its message in a way that could not be surpassed."

I purchased it for the county local and planned to circulate it among the different towns in the county from now until election day, allowing each town to have it for a few days. It is no expense to the local because the comrades make arrangements to have it exhibited free.

The \$2.50 that it costs will do more effective work than any other \$2.50 we will spend during the campaign."

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